

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 35 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 35-56 are pending, and claims 1-34 have been canceled.

The drawings have been amended to show proper cross sectional hatching.

The specification has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the projection recited in claim 35.

Claims 35-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. The specification has been amended to clarify that the projection recited in claim 35 is indeed exemplified by flange (366).

Claims 35-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanaka (US 5,845,543). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 35 has been amended to clarify that a portion of the axle body forms the projection extending radially outwardly from one of the first and second end portions of the axle body. Yamanaka discloses a bolt (54) with a flange (55), wherein bolt (54) is screwed into an end of an axle (5) in order to retain a crank arm (1) to axle (5). The body of axle (5) does not form flange (55). Thus, Yamanaka neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

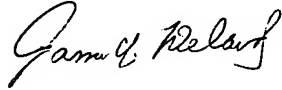
AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Figs. 2, 4 and 5 for the corresponding Figures filed on September 30, 2003. Figs. 2, 4 and 5 have been amended to add appropriate hatching for the materials therein. An annotated sheet showing the change also accompanies the replacement sheet. Both sheets are attached to the end of this paper.

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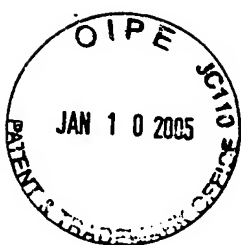
PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING
CHANGES

Inventor: MASAHIRO YAMANAKA

Application No.: 10/676,417

Atty. Docket No. SIC-02-009-1

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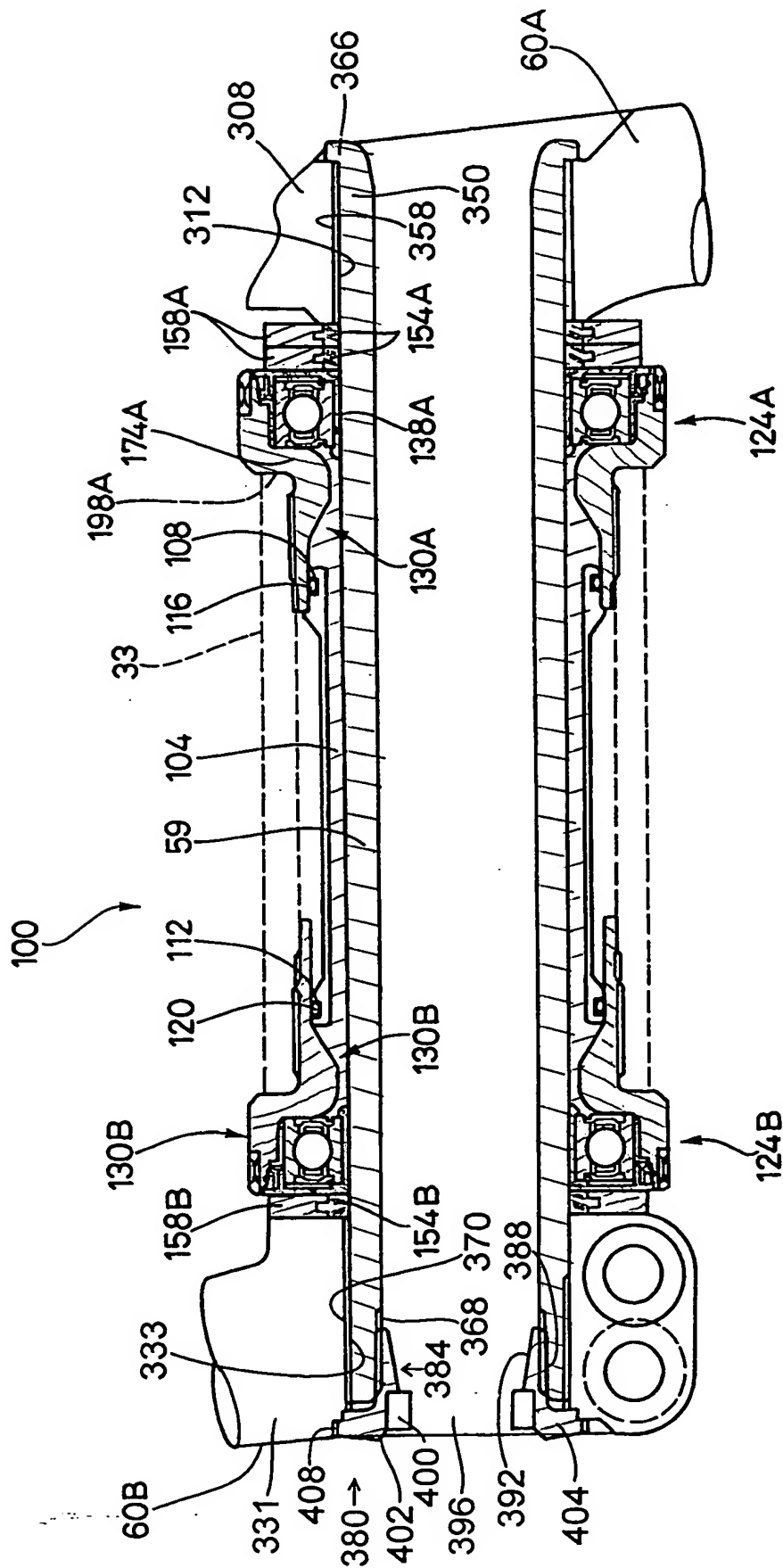


FIG. 2

